

QUALITY IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE SALT LAKE VALLEY

July 18, 2008

CHRIS CHYTRAUS
Fostering Healthy Children
Chairperson

Committee Members

MISTY BUTLER
Administrative Office of Courts

CHERYL DUBACH
Fostering Healthy Children

KRISTIN FADEL
Guardian ad Litem

SHARON GRASER
Youth Services

MIKE HAMBLIN
Utah Foster Care Foundation

CURT HANSEN
Granite School District

DR. KAREN HANSEN
Safe and Healthy Families,
PCMC

PATRICIA HASLAM
Community Member

ANNETTE JAN
Attorney General

CAROLYN JENSEN
Children's Justice Center,
Tooele County

PEGGY JEROME
Primary Care Family Therapy

SUMMER KOHL
Family Support Center

CHRISTINA LECLUYSE
Utah Foster Care Foundation

STEVE LEYBA
WorkForce Services

DIANE MOORE
Child and Family Services

MARGARITA PEREIRA
Centro de la Familia

DAWN PRINCE
Child and Family Services

MARCELLA RODRIGUEZ
The Road Home

MARJEAN SEARCY
Salt Lake City Police Department

STEPHANIE STEELE
The Sharing Place

ARN STOLP
Community Member

MARK WEISBENDER
Silverado Counseling

PATRICIA WORTHINGTON
Foster Care Citizen Review
Board

Duane Betournay, Director
Division of Child and Family Services
120 North 200 West
Salt Lake City, Utah 84103

Dear Duane,

I am writing to you as chair of the Salt Lake Valley Region Quality Improvement Committee. A few months ago, our committee reviewed data related to those children that enter care with a contributing factor of substance abuse. During this review, we noted that Tooele seemed to have more children placed in foster care vs. in-home services than the other offices in the Salt Lake Region.

We requested that the region review the data and come back to us with reasons as to why they might be placing the children in out of home care more than the other offices. Royce Webb and Tonya Myrup attended our meeting on July 15, 2008 to provide the committee with their follow-up information.

Their review noted the low number of cases that they had which affected the overall percentages. In addition, they reviewed the cases with the CPS supervisor and worker and were able to identify potentially three cases that may have been provided in-home services in place of foster care. The other factor, and the one our committee is most concerned about, is the lack of mental health services available in the Tooele area on a consistent basis. Royce reports that for many of the cases, services have to be "piece-mealed" together for the parents and youth. Multiple committee members also reported this as a concern in their own relationships with Tooele.

The committee would like to request that DCFS discuss these concerns with the Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health to see if there are ways to enhance the services in this area of the region that is increasing in population.

If you have any questions, please contact me or we would be happy to have you attend a meeting to further discuss this issue.

Sincerely,

Chris Chytraus
Chris Chytraus, R.N., BSN, CPM
QIC Chair- SLV Region

cc: Staci Ghneim; Diane Moore; Mary Wilder; Katy Larsen; Carol Miller